

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-12, 14-21, 23-25, 27-36, 38-45, 47-50 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 12, 16-18, 23, 36, 40-42 and 47 are amended, and new claims 49 and 50 are added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representatives during the June 18, 2003 interview. The remainder of these Remarks provide a summary of that interview.

I. Objections

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that the previously filed amendments overcome the objection to claims 2, 22, 26 and 46. With respect to the rejections of claims 14-18 and 38-42, it was determined that those rejections could be overcome by removing the alternative claim language, adding new independent claims for the subject matter of the removed alternative, and amending the dependent claims accordingly.

As shown in the foregoing amendments, claims 12 and 36 have been amended to recite only the microspherical option, and new claims 49 and 50 have been added to recite the flake option. Accordingly, dependent claims 16-18 have been amended to depend from independent claim 49, and dependent claims 40-42 have been amended to depend from independent claim 50.

Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the claims.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st and 2nd paragraph

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st paragraph issues have been overcome by the previously submitted remarks.

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph issues, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that the rejections of claims 1, 3, 25 and 27 have been overcome by the previously submitted amendments. Turning to the terms “flake shaped” and fly ash” as claimed, Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing amendments with respect to the former, and the concurrently submitted Information Disclosure Statement with respect to the latter, overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph rejections.

For claims 23 and 47, those claims have been amended as shown above, to place them in such condition that the body of the claim language should be given patentable weight when examined with respect to the prior art.

III. Prior art rejections

Applicant thanks the Examiner for agreeing to examine the previously objected to claims, once amendments have been made to place them in a more definite form. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for agreeing that Iizuka can be withdrawn as a rejecting reference under 35 U.S.C. § 103(c), due to common ownership at the time of invention.

With respect to the remaining prior art rejections, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider Applicant’s arguments in view of this Amendment.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

12. (Twice amended) A base body for a photosensitive drum, which is obtained by molding a conductive resin composition into a cylindrical shape,

said resin composition comprising an inorganic filler for reinforcement,

wherein said inorganic filler for reinforcement is [at least one of] a micro-spherical inorganic material [and a flake-shaped inorganic material, and said micro-spherical inorganic material is] in the form of spherical particles having an average particle size in a range of 50 μm or less.

16. (Amended) A base body for a photosensitive drum according to claim [12]49, wherein said [flake-shaped]flake inorganic material is in the form of flakes each having an aspect ratio (length/thickness) in a range of 10 to 70.

17. (Amended) A base body for a photosensitive drum according to claim [12]49, wherein said [flake-shaped]flake inorganic material is one kind or two or more kinds selected from aluminum flakes, Ni-coated mica, muscovite, and phlogopite.

18. (Amended) A base body for a photosensitive drum according to claim [12]49, wherein a content of said [flake-shaped]flake inorganic material is in a range of 10 to 25 wt%.

23 (Twice Amended) A base body for a photosensitive drum, which is obtained by molding a conductive resin composition into a cylindrical shape,

wherein said resin composition consists essentially of polyamide resin and has a factor $\tan\delta$ [expressing a frequency characteristic of said resin composition measured by an apparatus for measuring a complex modulus of elasticity, which factor is] in a range of 0.05 or more.

36. (Amended) A photosensitive drum comprising:

a cylindrical base body, which is obtained by molding a conductive resin composition into a cylindrical shape; and

a photosensitive layer formed on an outer peripheral surface of said cylindrical base body;

wherein said resin composition comprises an inorganic filler for reinforcement, and said inorganic filler for reinforcement is [at least one of] a micro-spherical inorganic material [and a flake-shaped inorganic material, and wherein said micro-spherical inorganic material is] in the form of spherical particles having an average particle size in a range of 50 μm or less.

40. (Amended) A photosensitive drum according to claim [36]50, wherein said [flake-shaped]flake inorganic material is in the form of flakes each having an aspect ratio (length/thickness) in a range of 10 to 70.

41. (Amended) A photosensitive drum according to claim [36]50, wherein said [flake-shaped]flake inorganic material is one kind or two or more kinds selected from aluminum flakes, Ni-coated mica, muscovite, and phlogopite.

42. (Amended) A photosensitive drum according to claim [36]50, wherein a content of said [flake-shaped]flake inorganic material is in a range of 10 to 25 wt%.

47. (Twice amended) A photosensitive drum comprising:

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a cylindrical base body, which is obtained by molding a conductive resin composition into a cylindrical shape; and

a photosensitive layer formed on said cylindrical base body;

wherein said resin composition consists essentially of polyamide resin and has a factor $\tan\delta$ [expressing a frequency characteristic of said resin composition measured by an apparatus for measuring a complex modulus of elasticity, which factor is] in a range of 0.05 or more.

Claims 49-50 are added as new claims.